

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention relates to a process for isolating a phytosterol from a pulping soap. The process of the invention comprises the steps of: (a) treating the pulping soap with a first solvent selected from the group consisting of propan-2-one, methanol and mixtures thereof to remove water from the pulping soap and thereby obtain a liquid phase and a phytosterol-containing semi-solid phase; (b) separating the liquid phase and the semi-solid phase from one another; (c) extracting the phytosterol from the semi-solid phase with a second solvent selected from the group consisting of C₃-C₆ ketones, C₁-C₆ alkanols and mixtures thereof; and (d) recovering the phytosterol obtained in step (c). A process for isolating a mixture of salts of fatty acids and salts of resinic acids from a pulping soap is also disclosed.